

REMARKS

Claim Amendments: The claims were rejected under 35 USC 102 and 103, with reference to US Patents 6,054,100 to Stanchfield and US Patents 3,085,689, 5,474,674, 4,915,831 to Hering, Bresolin, and Taylor, respectively. The claims have been further amended to place them in condition for allowance.

The claims as amended clearly distinguish over the teachings of Stanchfield, Hering, Bresolin, Taylor, and any combination thereof. Stanchfield merely teaches a lockable latch or clip 66 and 68, on the order of hinged metal lunch pail clips. E.g., col. 10, lines 26-36, and Figs. 1-2. The current office action states that Hering fails to disclose levers or the like. Bresolin teaches an “arm 28 which is mounted on a substantially vertical pivot 29 which is parallel to the main axis of the device 1” and “each pivot has an eccentric protrusion 30 that is suitable to fit, by rotating through approximately 90 degrees, in a complementarily shaped seat 31 of the lower part 2,” col. 4, lines 22-26, and thus the arm is not unitary with the cover and there is no hook shaped projection that connects with the bottom part. Taylor merely recognizes a problem, but suggests no solution, and it is contrary to the law to use the applicant’s teachings in solving the problem in a determination of obviousness.

In contrast to the above noted references, the claims are directed to a plurality of plastic spring levers distributed around the circumference of the cover that are unitarily formed with the plastic cover, with among other things, hook-shaped projections that connect with the bottom part. The claimed subject matter is the opposite of the non-unitary latches or clips or arms, or the non-hook-shaped projection engagements of the cited references. Indeed, the cited references, by virtue of having separate, non-unitary components with the cover, teach away from the claimed subject matter.

The Examiner is earnestly solicited to consider the teachings of Liang and the further clarifying amendments herein, and to enter same in accordance with 37 CFR 1.116 and MPEP

714.13. Applicant's representative requests a personal interview in accordance with MPEP
714.12.

If for any reason it is felt that a telephone interview would be helpful in resolving any
issues involving this application, the Examiner is further respectfully invited to contact the
below-listed attorney representing Applicant.

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Respectfully submitted,


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